

In this issue

- A Word from the Director
- Egyptian Museum Curators in the Met
- Exhibitions
- Upcoming Events
- Egyptian Museum Sections
- Profile of the Issue
- How to ... Access the Register Books?
- Making A Graphic Change



## THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER ONE

JANUARY - APRIL 2008

### A Word from the Director

The Egyptian Museum is one of the oldest museums in the world and holds the largest and most spectacular collection of Egyptian Antiquities, which makes it unique in its cultural richness.

The Museum plays a cultural, educational and scientific role in Egyptology. This role is reflected in the variety of its activities. Much of the work remains unknown to the public, which has led us to issue this newsletter. The Egyptian Museum is going through many changes,

and much is developing.

By means of this newsletter we aim to inform interested parties of events, present day-to-day activities, and help scholars and students by giving them useful information that would assist their research.

This newsletter is a small step towards a more developed museum.

Our debut issue was put together in record time, and we hope to continuously improve it and address issues that interest the wider Egyptological

community.

We therefore welcome all feedback, and we hope you enjoy our humble attempt and find it useful.



*Wafaa el-Saddik*  
Director

---

### Egyptian Museum Curators at the Met

Egyptian Museum curators Gehan Hassan and Takwa Seliman, took part in a fellowship program at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. They were recommended to join this program by Dr. Wafaa el-Saddik. The three month rigorous program involved the curators with the Metropolitan's daily activities, and taught them many facets of being a curator, from day-to-day gallery work to exhibition preparation and curating. Their

learning sessions included conservation, label writing and processing, assisting scholars, data entry and research, and also Registrar work. Takwa and Gehan took the opportunity to visit other museums, where they were able to observe different aspects of museology. They are both excited to be back at the Egyptian museum, and look forward to implementing the new skills they have acquired.

# Exhibitions



Amidst a brightly coloured display, the Egyptian Museum hosted, for the first time ever, a collection of artefacts from another culture. Fifty-eight Pre-Hispanic pieces from the region of Oaxaca, Mexico were displayed from the 20th of January to the 2nd of March 2008 in the Museum's temporary exhibition hall. Entitled "Dressing like Gods", the exhibition displayed the richness of the pre-Colombian world, focusing on attire and regalia through objects dating to between the third and sixteenth centuries A.D. It seemed that for a brief moment one was transferred to another time and place, far away from ancient Egypt, which still lingered in the background. This exhibition was part of an exchange with Mexico in which over 100 Egyptian antiquities covering Egypt's ancient history were displayed in an exhibition called "Isis and the Feathered Serpent" that was held in Mexico.



*Left: Anthropomorphic urn with headdress, courtesy of; Right: Exhibition displays, courtesy of RCMD*

Corroborree, or "Gathering Together in the Spirit of Celebration", was the title of another temporary exhibition celebrating 25 years of cooperation between Egyptians and Australians in the field of Egyptology. Held for one month, the exhibition was accompanied by a one day conference, where papers were given by academics and specialists involved with Australian projects in Egypt.

*Left: An Old Kingdom naos with Meri and Bebtj from the Chapel of Meri in Saqqara*



For two weeks from 24<sup>th</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> of April, the museum hosted another exhibition, this time not for antiquities. Marking the release of photographer Sarite Sander's book, *The Eternal Light of Egypt*, the American University Press, in cooperation with the Egyptian Museum, held an exhibition of black and white photographs of archaeological sites and artefacts from all over Egypt.

Celebrating 50 years of Egyptian and Czech collaboration in Egyptian Archaeology, the Czech Institute of Egyptology put on an exhibition at the Egyptian Museum from the 7<sup>th</sup> of April to the 7<sup>th</sup> of May. Artefacts on display were from excavations of the Czech Institute in their long-term concession in Abu Sir, and their most recent project in el-Hayez Oasis in the Western Desert where they have uncovered both pre-historic and Late Roman remains.



*Photo: Dr. Miroslav Verner, Director of Czech Institute of Egyptology Guiding Mr. Václav Klaus, president of Czech Republic and the first lady, through the exhibition. Photo courtesy of Ahmed Amin*



## Upcoming Events

A special exhibition will be held in room 44 of the Egyptian Museum; from May 19th to June 30th. Fifty documents belonging to the archaeologist Victor Loret, from the Egyptological Archives of the University of Milan, will be displayed. The documents include his excavation journals, notes, photographs, sketches and maps. In addition, twenty objects from the Egyptian Museum's collection from Loret's excavations in Saqqara and the Valley of the Kings, will also be displayed.



The Egyptian Museum is organising a play at the Cairo Opera House on May 12th at 7:00 pm. Visually impaired students from the Egyptian Museum School are performing "The Golden Serpent" based on *The Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor* and will be accompanied by the Orchestra and Choir from El-Noor wil Amala School for visually impaired girls. This will be the first time that such a play is performed by visually impaired students.

# Egyptian Museum Sections

The Egyptian Museum contains some 140 thousand artefacts divided into 13 main sections, allowing curators to easily supervise and curate the collections. Each section has several curators and assistant curators led by a Head Curator. Section one contains the Tutankhamun Collection and the Mummies. Sections two, three, four and five contain Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, New Kingdom and Late Period/Greco-Roman respectively. Section six includes coins and papyrus, and section seven which contains coffins, scarabs and ostraca. Each section is divided into subsections. The last section is the basement.

Under the supervision of Salwa Abdel Rahman, Section 3 curators are concerned with Middle Kingdom material, which is divided between the ground and upper floors depending on size. During the past months, the curators have been working on conserving and cleaning artefacts, as well as assisting M. G. Nelson-Hurst, ARCE Kress Fellow, who is studying some Middle Kingdom artefacts currently in storage.

Of the most taxing tasks Section 3 curators worked on during in recent months was the movement of a large statue of Queen Nofret, wife of Senusert II, as it is part of an exhibi-



tion of Egyptian antiquities in Vienna, Austria. This exhibition will be held at *Kunsthistorisches Museum* the until September 28th 2008.

Section 3 curator Waheed Edwar is also working on explanatory panels to be placed by Senusert III's boat from Dahshur on the ground floor.

*Above: Section 3 Head Curator Salwa Abdel Rahman cleaning a stela in storage before photographing it.*

*Below: Photographer Sameh Mohsen, Section 3 curators Nehad Elhamy, Salwa Abdel Rahman, Waheed Edwar with museum staff and in committee to photograph objects in storage for scholar Ahmed Youness.*



Section 6, under the direction of Mr. Sayed Hassan, is responsible for conserving the museum's papyrus manuscripts. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, the section's laboratory facilities are the most advanced in the Middle East. Prior to obtaining such new technology, the museum relied on old fashioned manual conservation and restoration, which were time and energy consuming. The Section is also organizing a temporary exhibition of the rare coins preserved in the museum.

*Sayed Hassan going through the papyrus archives in Section 6*

## PROFILE : PATSY GASPERETTI:

*Patsy is a freelance editor who has been helping the museum since 2004. She has been helping curators with English editing, and helping them to learn about the collections so they can guide VIP visitors. She is also working on compiling a word list comprised of the words that are commonly used in Egyptology. Patsy is the English editor for this newsletter.*



## How to ... Access the Register Books?

The *Journal D'entrée* (JE) is the Egyptian Museum's original registry series. Started in the early 1900's, the series has over 99,631 entries and encompasses 25 volumes. Additional registration series used in the Museum include the *Temporary Registers* (TR), the published *Catalogue Gener-*

*ale* (CG), and the *Special Registers* (SR). Students and scholars doing legitimate research who wish to consult the JE and TR books can visit the Registration and Collections Management Department (RCMD) located on the ground floor next to the elevator in the Predynastic gallery.

The published CG series are accessible at most Egyptological research libraries. To access the SR books, appointments must be made with the curator in charge of the object you wish to study. The RCMD is available to help guide scholars through all requests and any required paperwork. Please be aware

that, while general artifact study does not require special permission, any information being published does.

*By Waheed Edwar*

## Making A Graphic Change

Graphic Change, an American non-profit organization, has been volunteering at the museum since November 2005 creating The Egyptian Museum Graphic Improvement Project. Rebecca Weimer, Director of Graphic Change has been working with the museum staff to implement a complete signage system.

The system consist of 330 new signs, including facility identification, display room identification, directional, guideline, ticket price and main map. This will significantly enhance the image and functionality of the museum. At this point, the signage system has been completely designed, approved, and is

awaiting funding through corporate or personal sponsorship.

*By Rebecca Weimer*

*For more information about this project and sponsorship benefits, please contact Rebecca Weimer at [rweimer@graphicchange.org](mailto:rweimer@graphicchange.org) or visit [www.GraphicChange.org](http://www.GraphicChange.org)*



المتحف المصري

THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

Contact the Newsletter at  
[emnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:emnewsletter@gmail.com)

Please note that <http://www.egyptianmuseum.gov.eg/> is longer a valid website and should not be consulted. A new website is under construction.

Phone: 2-02-2582448, 25782452  
Fax: 2-02-25796974  
Visiting Hours: 9 am - 6.30 pm  
General Working Hours: 9 am - 3.30 pm

Ticket prices:

Foreign Adults: 50 LE  
Foreign Students (with valid ISIC ID): 25 LE  
Egyptian and Arab Adults: 2.00 LE  
Egyptian and Arab Students: 1.00 LE

Mummy Room:

Foreign Adults: 100 LE  
Foreign Students (with valid ISIC ID): 50 LE  
Egyptian and Arab Adults: 10 LE  
Egyptian and Arab Students: 5 LE

*This newsletter is prepared by:  
Maather Ibrahim Abu Aish  
Mennat-Allah El Dorry*